

Ultima Community Action Plan

2026-2030

Ultima is a small but proud rural community located 32 kilometres west of Swan Hill in the heart of the Mallee. Home to around 165 residents, the town is surrounded by distinctive red-dust landscapes, native Belah, Box and Mallee trees, and productive farming land. Despite its size, Ultima offers a strong sense of community, supported by key facilities including a primary school, public hall, recreation reserve, golf course, skate park, BMX track, playground and sporting clubs.

The historic township retains many reminders of its rich past, including the iconic water tower mural, heritage buildings and impressive grain silos. Community organisations such as the Lions Club, Progress Association and Football Netball Club play an important role in local life. Known as a "Small Town, Big Heart", Ultima is a welcoming, resilient community with a strong volunteer spirit and pride in its heritage and future.



Community planning is a process that is 'owned' by the community with Swan Hill Rural City Council available to play a facilitation role. Community Plans provide invaluable input into Local, State and Federal Government Planning, giving local communities a strategic voice to government about what is important for their town's livability and wellbeing.

Top 3 Projects Identified for Delivery - Subject to funding and resource availability					
Project size	Project	Tasks		Lead Organisation	Progress
Small (\$1000-\$50,000)	Town Entry Signage Upgrade	Install new signs as existing signs have faded	Install updated display board on the corner of Breen Street and Sea-Lake and Swan Hill Road	SHRCC	
Moderate (\$50,000-\$150,00)	Beautification	Explore opportunities for public art in the main street and within public parks such as Lions Park	Beautify streetscape with appropriate trees for shade that are drought tolerant	SHRCC	
Large (\$150,000+)	Urban Walking Paths	Install more walking paths to help residents to move through town without having to walk on the road	Create walking path that links the recreation reserve to the main street	SHRCC	
Key Initiatives that the Community Will Lead for Delivery					
Small	Ultima Cemetery	Enhance and clean up cemetery site	Control rabbits and install rabbit proof fencing	UPA	
Small	Events	Australia Day event Seek funding from Council through the event support fund	ANZAC Celebrations	UPA	
Small	Community Garden Upgrade	Clean up and enhance the community garden		UPA	
Large	Cenotaph Precinct Works	Repair Cenotaph footings Continue to enhance the Memorial Park Remove steel fun box and replace with different activity	History and interpretation install in the park and log hut Replace pump track with a concrete version and activate remaining space Install shade sails over the basketball court	UPA	
Large	Truck Stop	Establish a truck stop with toilets and showers		UPA	
Large	Ultima Cafe' and Community Hub Enhancement	Install solar and batteries to provide an emergency/refuge space for residents	Repair building to increase the opportunity to provide community services such as health checks	UPA	
Other Key Initiatives					
Small	Strategic Community Planning and Resourcing	Develop strategic plan to build capacity within community groups and between differing community groups and government	Provide training to increase capacity of community groups of the town to meet identified local needs	SHRCC	
Small	Ultima Roadmap	Develop a roadmap for the future of Ultima in relation to opportunities presented by VHM and rail hub		SHRCC	
Small	Mulch Facility	Provide opportunities for local employment at the new mulch facility	Advocate to Council to provide free access to mulch for residents of Ultima	SHRCC	
Small	Hard Rubbish Pickup	Petition Council to reinstate hard rubbish pickup		SHRCC	
Small	Residential property cleanup	Petition Council to create stronger laws to enforce the cleanup of residential yards that are being used as dumping grounds for junk		SHRCC	
Large	Ultima Intersection Upgrade	Upgrade the intersection of David Street and Sea-Lake Swan Hill Road		VHM	Progressing
Large	Vernon Street Upgrade	Widen street and seal between Culgoa and Dillon Street for road trains		SHRCC	
Large	Ultima School Activation	Develop a plan for the future of the school site	Explore opportunities to purchase the old school site	SHRCC	
Key Initiatives that Require Advocacy to External Agencies other than Council					
Small	Railcrossing Cleanup	Petition VicTrack to clean up vegetation the rail crossing to improve visibility		UPA - SHRCC	
Large	Intersection Safety	Petition VicRoads to improve the safety of the intersection of Sea-Lake Swan Hill Road Dillon Street as there has been significant increase in heavy vehicle use		UPA - SHRCC	

Title: Initial Project Considerations								
Project		Council Owned Land	Budgeted	External Funding Required	Permits Required	Community Priority	Council Strategies	Partners – ie consultation, funding or approvals
Cenotaph Precinct Works	Repair Cenotaph footings	Yes	Yes	No	Heritage, Building	High	Community Plan 2026-30	UPA, SHRCC
	Continue to enhance the Memorial Park	Yes	Yes	No	Depends on activity	Medium		
	Remove steel fun box	Yes	Yes	No	Not required	High		
	History & interpretation install into log hut	Yes	No	Yes	Not required	Medium		
	Replace pump track with concrete version & activate the remaining space	Yes	No	Yes	Not required	Medium		
	Install shade sails over basketball court	Yes	Yes	No	Building	Medium		
Ultima Café & Community Hub Enhancement	Install solar & batteries to provide an emergency space	No	No	Yes	Building	High	Community Plan 2026-30	UPA
	Repair building to increase the opportunity to provide community services such as health checks	No	No	Yes		High		
Ulima Intersection Upgrade	Upgrade the intersection of David Street & Sea-Lake Swan Hill Rd	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Planning Permit	High	Community Plan 2026-30	VHM, VR, SHRCC
Strategic Community Planning & Resourcing	Develop strategic plan to build capacity within community groups, between differing community groups and government	NA	No	Yes	Not required	High	Community Plan 2026-30	FRRR, SHRCC, UPA
	Provide training to increase capacity of community groups of the town to meet identified local needs	NA	No	Yes	Not required	High		
Town Entry Signage Upgrade	Install new signs as existing signs have faded	Yes	Yes	No	VicRoads	High	Community Plan 2026-30	SHRCC
	Install updated display board on the corner of Breen Street and Sea Lake – Swan Hill Road	Yes	No	No	VicRoads	High		
Community Garden	Clean up & enhance the community garden	No	No	Yes	Depends on activity	Medium	Community Plan 2026-30	UPA, SHRCC
Ultima Cemetery	Enhance & clean up cemetery	No	No	Yes	Not required	High	Community Plan 2026-30	CoM, UPA
	Control rabbits & install rabbit proof fencing	No	No	Yes	Not required	High	Compliment Roadside Weeds & Pest Program,	
Develop Ultima Roadmap	Develop a Roadmap for the future of Ultima in relation to opportunities presented by VHM and Rail hub	Mixed	No	No	Not required	High	Community Plan 2026-30	SHRCC, UPA, VHM
Ultima School Activation	Develop a plan for the future of the school site	No	No	No	Depends on activity	High	Community Plan 2026-30	DE, SHRCC, UPA
Urban Walking Paths	Install more walking paths to help residents to move through town without having to walk on the road	Yes	No	Possibly	Works Within Roadside Permit	Medium	Community Plan 2026-30, Potentially needs incorporating into Missing Links Footpath Construction Strategy 2019	SHRCC
	Create walking path that links the recreation reserve to the main street	Yes	No	Possibly		Medium		
Beautification	Explore opportunities for public art in the main street and within public parks such as Lions Park	Yes	No	Possible	Depends on activity and location	Medium	Community Plan 2026-30	SHRCC
	Beautify streetscape with appropriate trees for shade that are drought tolerant	Yes	No	Possibly		Medium		
Mulch Facility	Provide opportunities for local employment at the new mulch facility	Yes	No	Possibly	Not Required	Medium	Community Plan 2026-30	SHRCC
	Advocate to Council to provide free access to mulch for the residents of Ultima	Yes	No	NA		Medium		
Hard Rubbish Pickup	Petition Council to reinstate hard rubbish pickup	NA	No	Possibly	To be determined	High	Community Plan 2026-30	SHRCC
Residential Property Cleanup	Petition Council to create stronger laws to enforce the cleanup of residential yards that are being used as dumping grounds for junk	No	No	Possibly	To be determined	High	Community Plan 2026-30	SHRCC
Vernon Street Upgrade	Widen Street and seal between Culgoa and Dillion Streets for road trains	Yes	No	Possibly	Works Within Roadside Permit	High	Community Plan 2026-30	SHRCC
Truck Stop	Establish a truck stop with toilets and showers	No	No	Yes	Building and Planning Permits	Medium	Community Plan 2026-30	UPA, Private Business

Legend: **SHRCC – Swan Hill Rural City Council; **UPA** – Ultima Progress Association; **VR** – VicRoads, **VT** – VicTrack; **DoPT** – Dept. of Planning & Transport; **GMW** – Goulburn Murray Water; **GC** – Graincorp; **VHM** – VHM Limited (Mining, Exploration, Minerals); **CoM** – Committee of Management; **DE** – Department of Education*

